

CITY FIGHTING FIVE YEARS TO OUST EDISON ELECTRIC CO. FROM A BROOKLYN MONOPOLY

McCall Found Himself to Be a Stockholder in a Subsidiary Company and Passed Action to Another Judge, After Months of Delay—De Lancey Nicoll as Referee Hasn't Decided on Franchise After Three Years.

By Sophie Irene Loeb.

Remarkable revelations have been brought forward in the present hearings before the Public Service Commission in the efforts of the people in the Thirtieth Ward to secure a 30-cent gas rate from the Kings County Lighting Company, which is the only company furnishing gas in that district.

It has developed that interlocking directorates and a questionable franchise, the validity of which has been pending for years, have practically excluded competition by both electric light and gas companies, at least in the ward named.

For five years the City of New York has been endeavoring to show that the Edison Electric Illuminating Company has been operating under a franchise which is null and void. This company has for its directors the Brady interests, who also are directors in the Kings County Lighting Company, furnishing gas in this district.

In fact on June 23, 1910, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment ordered the wires and poles of this company to be taken down and the company to cease operation.

EDISON FRANCHISE IS DECLARED INVALID.

The company proceeded to get an injunction against the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to restrain it from this action. The matter came up before Judge McCall in December, 1911. Mr. McCall is now Chairman of the Public Service Commission. The case was postponed until February, 1912. It was further postponed on motion of the company, and set down for April, 1912.

And when the case again came before Judge McCall he discovered that he was disqualified from trying the case, being a stockholder in the Kings County Lighting Company.

The action of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment was taken as a result of the opinion of Archibald R. Watson, Corporation Counsel, which, addressed to the Board of Estimate, under date of June 23, 1910, reads as follows:

"I am in receipt of your letter of June 3, 1910, in which you ask to be advised whether in my opinion the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Brooklyn has a valid franchise to operate in the Thirtieth Ward, Borough of Brooklyn."

"I am also in receipt of your letter of June 17, 1910, requesting me to report to the Board at the meeting of June 24, 1910, on the right of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Brooklyn to construct, maintain and operate poles and overhead wires within the limits of the Thirtieth Ward, Borough of Brooklyn."

"I have carefully examined all the data relating to the franchise of this company, under which it now operates in the Borough of Brooklyn, and I have also considered the views of Hon. Alton B. Parker, counsel to the company, who asked permission to confer with me in its behalf. I have concluded, however, that the Edison Electric Illuminating Company has no valid franchise to construct, maintain and operate poles and overhead wires within the limits of the Thirtieth Ward."

"The question you ask regarding the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Brooklyn must therefore be answered in the negative."

The pending actions are these: This case came up for trial before Mr. Justice McCall in December, 1911. At the opening of the trial and with-

out any previous notice to the city, Judge Hatch, counsel for the plaintiff companies, moved to amend the complaint in a very important and material respect.

This motion was granted by Justice McCall. The city, being taken by surprise, having prepared the case for trial on the issue raised by the existing pleadings, asked for an adjournment until plaintiff served an amended complaint and defendant served an amended answer.

On Dec. 7, 1911, an amended complaint was served by plaintiff and the city demanded a bill of particulars. A bill of particulars was served on Dec. 21, 1911. On Dec. 29, 1911, city served its amended answer to the amended complaint. The case was then set down for trial at the February term before Mr. Justice McCall, who meanwhile had maintained control over the action.

The city having made a motion to compel the plaintiff to reply to its amended answer when the case came up in February, 1912, plaintiff applied for an adjournment and the case was set down for April 15, 1912. When the case was called for trial before Mr. Justice McCall in April and the city had subpoenaed all its witnesses and the books of the plaintiff companies and other subsidiary companies, including their stock books, Judge McCall discovered that he was disqualified from trying the case, being a stockholder in the Kings County Lighting Company, one of the companies affected by this litigation.

The trial of the case was then put over until some other Judge could dispose of it. Therefore, Mr. Watson, then Corporation Counsel, arranged for a reference of the issue to Mr. De Lancey Nicoll as referee. The reference began before Mr. Nicoll on June 7, 1912. It has been pending before him ever since.

The plaintiff closed their case only two months ago. There had been twelve or fifteen adjournments. Most of these were at the request of the plaintiffs. The other were upon motion of the referee. There has been no delay in the trial of this action on the part of the city. The city has always been ready.

During the pendency of the reference an application was also made by the Edison Company of Brooklyn to acquire all the stock of the Amsterdam Company. This application was vigorously opposed by the city, and no decision has been rendered by the Public Service Commission.

CONSUMERS PAY FOR FIVE YEARS OF DELAY.

That all of these continued postponements of five years have proved detrimental to the consumers is evidenced by their long fight against these vested interests, and their present high rate of gas at 95 cents. Senator Duhamel appeared before the Public Service Commission at the hearing last week, and told how the Anthony Brady interests had been the voting trust of this company and how legislation to reduce gas rates had proved futile.

John J. Gordon, representing the New Utrecht League of Improvement Association, pointed out the fact that Anthony Brady, who was President of the Kings County Lighting Company (the holding company of the Brooklyn Edison system) was likewise President of the New York Edison Company.

Mr. Brady also assumed the stock of the Amsterdam Company, which sold out this stock to the Edison Company for nearly a half million dollars. Mr. Gordon and his fellow citizens assert that a competing company (Longacre Light and Power Company) has offered to furnish electric light at 6 cents per kilowatt hour, and otherwise compete with the Edison Company, which means, consequently, a lower rate of gas.

But these interests have been prevented from securing a fran-

Woman Should Propose for Her Life Mate, Says a World-Wide Student of Matrimony



It Is She Upon Whom Falls the Colossal Responsibility of Marriage and She Should Choose the Man—English Woman Author Thinks American and Spanish Girls the Greatest Flirts—English Lovemaking the Most Wholesome.

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall.

How women make love, get married, take care of babies, stay unmarried, hold down jobs, wear their clothes, play the social game, try to vote, in a dozen different lands, are items in the breezy summary of feminine achievement which Mrs. Alec-Tweedie, one of England's most popular woman writers, presents in her newest book, "Women of the World Over."

The book is really the lightly told record of a woman's swing around the circle—said circle not to be confused in any way with "woman's sphere." For Mrs. Alec-Tweedie has left her home behind her many times. Mexico, Morocco, Finland, Japan, Iceland, South America, China, besides the usual European tours and several trips to this country, have been on her itinerary. Wherever she has been she has collected mental photographs of the quips and cranks of her sex, as well as of their more serious accomplishments and ideals.

There is perhaps no more interesting chapter in the whole book than that describing courtship a la mode in the different parts of the world. To begin with, Mrs. Alec-Tweedie announces as her settled conviction that women should have the right to propose.

"It is women who change their entire lives by matrimony," she declares. "It is women who take on colossal responsibility by matrimony. Every detail falls to the lot of the woman, and therefore the woman should surely be allowed to choose the man for whom she feels herself able to work and give. Of course women should propose. Men and women should be equal in all things, and therefore should be equally able to choose a partner for life."

AS MANY KINDS OF LOVE AS THERE ARE PICKLES.

And then Mrs. Alec-Tweedie puts the question, "How do we do our love-making?" and proceeds to give the fifty-nine (more or less) varieties. She speaks approvingly of first love, "the apprenticeship of love," as it is to be found in England:

"Surely the average young Englishman is all the better for being in love with some good girl of his own position in life. Her sympathy and interest do much to encourage him to work and save, and to keep him straight, and his quiet pleasure in her society prevents him from seeking other and less desirable companionships."

"This calf-love has equal advantages on account of this 'questionable' franchise under which the Edison Company is now operating, which has been dragged along through various court proceedings and has been in the hands of De Lancey Nicoll as referee for three years, without decision."

As to the interlocking directorates of the Anthony Brady interests, Frank Polk, Corporation Counsel, asserts that the Edison Company has no legal franchise, which opinion agrees with the opinion of Archibald R. Watson, former Corporation Counsel. In his brief now before De Lancey Nicoll the Corporation Counsel makes the following statement:

HOW EDISON OF BROOKLYN GOT A LEGAL MONOPOLY.
"It only remains to add that the National Electric Company of Connecticut, of which Anthony Brady and Walter Ferguson and A. M. Young were directors, soon found itself in possession of the 4,750 shares of stock and the 300 bonds of the Amsterdam Company, and that the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Brooklyn acquired this stock and these bonds on the 30th day of October, 1899, for the princely sum of \$404,750, and that a month or so thereafter, in 1899, the Amsterdam Company abandoned its plant."

"The monopoly to compete against which the State Electric Light and Power Company has given this most favorable and most valuable franchise in the city, acquired that most precious franchise, which had been turned over to the Amsterdam Company in the manner we have seen. The Amsterdam stock and bonds are worthless. The only property that company had was the franchise given the State company, but to get that franchise the Edison Company paid for that otherwise worthless stock and bonds nearly half a million dollars."



THE USES OF IRELAND'S "BE-TWEEN-MAN."

"In Ireland, the 'between-man' is much employed to arrange marriages among the peasantry. When a young farmer has sought his services and a likely girl has been suggested, the between-man arranges a visit some evening. The would-be bridegroom then borrows a suit from one friend, a coat, a watch, a stick, from others for luck. He waits on the roadside whilst the trusted agent enters the young woman's home. If invited to sit down by the parents the go-between remarks that a friend of his is outside, and a chat on his virtues ensues. Should the latter be also asked in, then the proposal is understood to be an accomplished fact, and the girl learns it. Of course she can refuse, but this is unlikely."

"Courtship by proxy is an old Finnish custom. If a man and woman appear in any way agreeable to one another and the circumstances are propitious, the spokesman is sent by the would-be bridegroom to the girl's father's house to ask her hand. This personage is generally chosen from among the intended bridegroom's best friends and usually is possessed of a ready tongue. Not only does he have to provide for a rich dowry, but he is obliged to help at the wedding ceremony and feast, and also has to provide from his own purse brandy and coffee for all the guests. After the proposal is accepted there is an exchange of rings, and the young people are allowed to be together and learn something of one another's tastes."

"Peeping outside Europe, a Moorish marriage is perhaps the strangest. When a girl has been sufficiently fattened her father looks about him to find a nice young man possessed of the wherewithal to buy her for his wife. He calls upon the bridegroom's father, and the two elder men discuss the price, which is usually a fine cat, a land or jewels, paid by the bridegroom to his would-be bride's father."

Sometimes the bridegroom and bride never meet until after the marriage procession has left her at his house. Her mother-in-law takes her education in hand, and she becomes a sort of under-servant to her husband's parents, who teach her her duties and bring her up in the way she should go."

IN JAPAN THE COLLEGE BOYS HAVE A CHANCE.
In Japan the prize pupils at the university are picked as prize hands by the fathers of the young girls.

"Occasionally these paternally arranged Japanese matches leave one agast," admits the writer. "A very beautiful little lady was told by her father that she must marry. The object of his choice was a rich diplomat who lived some thousand miles away. That did not deter matters."

"The strictest inquiries were made and all replies were satisfactory, so the girl's trousseau was prepared, the wedding guests were bidden and the night before the actual ceremony the bridegroom-elect landed at the bride's house in time for dinner. They were formally introduced, they spent the evening with the family and the very next day they were wed."

"Lovemaking is a different affair in every country, and alters greatly according to the grade of life," sums up Mrs. Alec-Tweedie, "yet, all over the world it comes to the same thing: a girl and a boy; matrimony the provision for old age."

AMERICAN WOMEN HELPING ITALY FOR PRINCELY HUSBANDS

Daughters of New York Families Give Homes and Fortunes to Red Cross.

ROME, May 22.—American women already have played a notable part in the European war tragedy and their work will be carried on afresh in Italy under the names of some of the oldest and most famous houses of this country.

When the Italian legions marched to the front descendants of princely houses famed in the war history of Italy for more than a thousand years followed in the footsteps of their ancestors.

From the Mayor of Rome, Prince Prospero Colonna and his three sons, to the young action of the famous house of Cenci the Italian nobles carry history into the war. And these nobles, many of them married to Americans, will see their names made even more famous through the active aid of their wives.

Already these wealthy American women are planning extensive Red

Cross work. If some have been turned over for hospitals; automobiles have been offered, even before they were sequestered for Government work. Many of the women themselves have taken complete courses in nursing.

Among the American daughters of wealth married to Italian nobles now called to the colors are the Marchioness Francesco Theodor, formerly Miss Beatrice Thaw of Pittsburgh; Princess Colonna, formerly Miss Eva Mackay, daughter of John Mackay, and a sister of Clarence Mackay; Princess San Faustino, formerly Miss Mabel Campbell of New York; Princess Giambattista Rospioglio, formerly Miss Ethel Julia Bronson of New York; Princess Francesco Rospioglio, formerly Miss Laura Macdonald Stallo of Cincinnati; Princess Napoleone Ruspoli, formerly Miss Katherine Quay of Pennsylvania; Princess Torlonia, formerly Miss Elsie Moore of New York.

Princess Del Drago and the Marchese Pecci, daughters of American women, already have made plans for active hospital work.

Several sons of American mothers are fighting for Italy. Among these are Prince Mario Cenci-Bolognini, son of the late Princess Cenci-Bolognini, who was Miss Eleanor Lorillard Spencer of New York; the Prince Ruspoli, whose mother was Eva Broadwood; the Princess Colonna, son of Princess Ferdinando Colonna, formerly Evelyn Julia Bryant of California.

Among American wives of famous physicians and surgeons who will help care for the sick and wounded is Mrs. Bastianelli, wife of Prof. Giuseppe Bastianelli. Mrs. Bastianelli was formerly Miss Marion Rawie of Philadelphia.

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